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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COA-02 IO-13 RSR-01 /098 W
---------- 131044
R 192141 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 270
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5320

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA VE CO
SUBJECT: JULY VISIT TO VENEZUELA OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT PASTRANA

LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

1. AT LUNCH TODAY COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR CHARRY SAMPER ASKED ME SEVERAL TIMES IF I THOUGHT FORTHCOMING VISIT OF HIS PRESIDENT TO VENEZUELA WOULD BE USEFUL. AS DEPARTMENT PROBABLY KNOWNS, PASTRANA HAS BEEN INVITED FOR A STATE VISIT, ARRIVING CARACAS JULY 24 PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN GRANDLOSE CELEBRATIONS OF THE NAVAL BATTLE OF MARACAIBO JULY 26.

2. I REPLIED THAT, SINCE VISIT HAD ALREADY BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO POINT IN COMMENTING ON ITS UTILITY. I DID SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT POSSIBLY A PRECISE AGENDA MIGHT HELP.

3. ON LONG DRAGGED OUT ISSUE OF VENEZUELAN- COLOMBIAN NEGOTIATIONS OVER DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN GULF OF VENEZUELA, I OFFERED
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PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT, SINCE BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE, EACH GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THE PERSIAN GULF BOOK. I RECALLED THAT CLOSE ON 1968, BOTH THE SHAH OF IRAN AND KING OF SAUDI ARABIA HAD AGREED TO PUT THEIR TERRITORIAL JURIDICAL CLAIMS IN THE DEEP FREEZE AND TO PROCEED ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS TO DIVIDE 50-50 WHATEVER PETROLEUM MIGHT BE DISCOVERED IN THE DISPUTED ZONE BETWEEN THEIR ASSERTED JURIDICATIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IN THE RELATIVELY SMALL TRIANGLE IN DISPUTE BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA, A SIMILIAR 50-50 AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON OIL WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EVENTUAL JURIDICAL BOUNDARY DELIMITATIONS.
MCCLINTOCK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: OTRA, CO, VE
To: ARA
BOGOTA
LIMA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
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